

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method for coding positions of data elements in a data structure. According to the method, position codes are associated with the data elements in a pre-determined sequence, the position codes being selected in such a way that, if the lengths of the position codes are unlimited, many other position codes can be arbitrarily allocated between the positions of two data elements in order to code positions of other data elements. The present invention also relates to a method for coding positions of data elements in a data structure, whereby position codes are associated with the data elements in a pre-determined sequence, the position codes being selected in such a way that other position codes can be allocated between the positions of two adjacent data elements in order to code positions of other data elements, at least one other position code being longer than the longest position codes of the two adjacent data elements.